

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. The position set forth in the Office Action has been carefully considered. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-17 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on a combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,671,282 ("Wolff") and U.S. Patent No. 5,420,406 ("Izawa"). All pending claims are believed to be allowable for at least the following reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

One of the features recited in independent claims 1, 9, 10, and 17 is directed to notification of invalidating the document. For example, independent claim 1 requires a controller, *inter alia*, "to send data representing completion of the invalidation of the document to the server." Other independent claims contain recitations similar to those of independent claim 1. As described at, for example, page 16, lines 25-31 of the present specification, a specific exemplary embodiment of the invention involves a notification process where the printer controller 111 sends a message containing data 738 indicating completion of cutting the document to the content server 120 so that the content server 120 can initiate a refund process in exchange for the destroyed document.

The Wolff patent was cited as describing the claimed notification of invalidating the document. The Office Action cited column 10, lines 62-67 of the Wolff patent as describing the claimed feature of the invention. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The cited portions generally describe a client subsystem which identifies discrepancies with the original document. Wolff's system is directed to document change detection. Such a system enables security by providing correspondence between machine readable information (e.g., a bar code) and the human interpretable information it accompanies. Wolff, column 8, line 60 - column 9, line 2. However, the Wolff patent describes a system for determining the amount or level of discrepancy that is allowed before a conclusion of inauthenticity or invalidity is reached. Wolff, column 6, lines 29-35. Nothing in Wolff, explicitly or implicitly, suggests invalidating a document as claimed.

Here, as the present specification specifies, "invalidation" of the document means to destroy the document so that the document cannot be used any more for forgery or fraud purposes. Such invalidation of the document can be implemented by, for example, cutting the document into slices according to one exemplary embodiment of the invention. See, for example, page 16, lines 19-24 of the present specification.

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By contrast, Wolff is related to determining a document is invalid or not authenticated. Possibly, the Examiner is equating this determination of the document's inauthenticity to the claimed invalidation. However, it is respectfully submitted that Wolff's determination of inauthenticity has nothing to do with destroying the document itself in order to avoid its further use, as claimed. Therefore, the Wolff patent cannot be said to suggest the claimed invention.

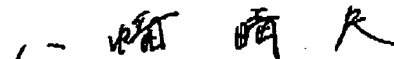
The Izawa patent has been carefully reviewed, and found not to overcome the deficiencies of the Wolff patent.

In view of the foregoing, the invention defined in independent claims 1, 9, 10, and 17, and their dependent claims is believed to be patentable over the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

II. CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-663-1100, ext. 245.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



Haruo Yawata
Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

P.O. Box 70250
Oakland, CA 94612-0250
510-663-1100, ext. 245